

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

February 21, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Douglas Garland found guilty of three murders (0:14)

Setting the Scene



The victims, from left, Kathy Liknes, Nathan O'Brien, and Alvin Liknes (Calgary Police Service) (CBC file photo)

In Calgary, a tragic murder case has concluded in the court system. In 2014, a couple (Kathy and Alvin Liknes) and their 5-year-old grandson (Nathan O'Brien) went missing. They were never found. Douglas Garland, a former business partner of Alvin Liknes, was arrested for the murder of the three people. He said that he didn't kill them. The case was brought to trial. This is when a crime or crimes have been committed, and a judge decides whether a person is guilty or not guilty of that crime. The people of Calgary, who were saddened by this family murder, have been following the trial in the news.

Pre-listening Questions

What happens when people are guilty of crimes? What kind of punishment might they get?

What kind of punishment do you think is fair for murder?

How are crimes punished in your home country? Is the system different from the Canadian one?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	guilty (adj.)	1. idea, understanding
_____	deliberating (v.)	2. declared, said
_____	theory (n.)	3. information, study
_____	violent (adj.)	4. fight, battle
_____	struggle (n.)	5. watchers, seers
_____	testified (v.)	6. responsible, wrong
_____	research (n.)	7. pain, hurt
_____	torture (n.)	8. discussing, considering
_____	witnesses (n.)	9. harmful, forceful

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

first degree murder – a killing that was planned

jury – a group of people (members of the public) who make a decision in a legal case

verdict – a jury or judge's decision

the Crown – the body in a criminal case that represents Canada's government (the law)

DNA - a substance that carries information about a person's genes

hard drives – storage for computer files

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_34zxn6

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Matching

Read the names of the person/group below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the number with the correct information that follows. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Person/Group		Information
Douglas Garland	•	• murdered by Garland
Alvin and Kathy Liknes	•	• believes Garland burned the bodies
Nathan O'Brien	•	• found guilty of three counts of murder
the jury	•	• did not call any witnesses in the trial
the Crown	•	• Alvin and Kathy Liknes' grandson; also murdered
Garland's parents	•	• delivered its verdict on Thursday
police	•	• lived with their son on a farm near Airdrie
Garland's lawyers	•	• found hard drives hidden on Garland's property

Food for Thought

Did you follow the Garland trial in the news?

Were you surprised that Garland was found guilty?

The decision was made by a jury. Have you ever been on a jury? Do you think it would be an interesting position? Do you think it would be difficult?

News story #2 Two flight instructors dead in plane crash (1:54)

Setting the Scene



Plane crash victims Jeffrey Bird (*left*) and Reynold Johnson (*right*) (Facebook/Mount Royal University) (CBC file photo)

At Mount Royal University in Calgary, students can get a diploma in Aviation. This means they are trained in flying airplanes. This is a job that requires a lot of knowledge and skill. Sadly, two of the university's flight instructors were killed in a plane crash. They were flying a plane that belonged to the university. Both men were experienced pilots and well-liked as instructors. People are surprised and saddened by this tragic news.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you like flying in planes? Do you feel safe in them?

What are some characteristics of a good pilot?

Who is/was your favourite teacher or instructor? Why is that person special to you?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Hospitals have a wide range of **staff**, from doctors and nurses to receptionists and cleaners.
 - a. sick people
 - b. workers
2. The shooting at the Quebec mosque was a tragedy. Canada is **mourning** the victims.
 - a. feeling strong pain from an injury
 - b. feeling strong sadness when someone dies
3. She is a very **experienced** detective. She has worked with the Calgary police for 16 years.
 - a. having skill or knowledge from doing something before
 - b. having success from doing something with help
4. Holly was **formerly** a journalist. Now, she teaches writing at a college.
 - a. previously
 - b. physically
5. Luke had a great **career** in government. He worked for several departments for 40 years.
 - a. a job done for a short time
 - b. a job done for a long time
6. Nobody knows how the fire started. The police are **investigating** it now.
 - a. searching for the truth
 - b. making sure people are safe
7. The Ministry of Health **releases** its new nutrition guide next month. It will be on their website.
 - a. publishes or makes public
 - b. changes or fixes
8. In many countries, including Canada, heart disease is a major **cause** of death.
 - a. something that fixes a problem
 - b. something that has an effect

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

Royal Canadian Air Force – the body of the Canadian Armed Forces related to planes and flight

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_34zo4o

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Which university is mourning?
2. What are staff and students mourning?
3. Where was the plane crash?
4. When was the plane crash?
5. Jeffrey Bird was a pilot with which Royal Canadian organization?
6. How long was Reynold Johnson's pilot career?
7. Which airlines did Johnson work for?
8. Which board is investigating the crash?
9. How long might it be before they release a report?

Food for thought

What are some situations or accidents that might cause a plane crash?

How can people make sure they are safe when they travel by plane?

How can the university honour the two instructors who died?

News story #3 Notley the most threatened premier in Alberta history (2:54)

Setting the Scene



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley (CBC) (CBC file photo)

Rachel Notley was elected as the Premier of Alberta in 2015. She represents the NDP (New Democratic Party). Her government replaced the Progressive Conservative Party, which had governed Alberta since 1971. She is the first NDP Premier of Alberta. Notley has faced both praise and criticism during her time as Premier. In Canada, people are legally allowed to speak freely and share their opinions about politics. However, Notley has also received threats, many on social media. Some describe very violent acts. People are not allowed to threaten the life or the safety of another person. Police are investigating some of these threats.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you use social media? Which tools do you use?

Do you discuss politics on social media? Why or why not?

How do people discuss politics in your home country? Is it different from Canada?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

threatened (v.)	said that you will hurt someone
incidents (n.)	unexpected events
inappropriate (adj.)	not suitable for a situation
aimed at (v.)	pointed or directed towards something or someone
tracked (v.)	followed and/or monitored
review (v.)	official examination
faced (v.)	had to deal with an unpleasant situation

1. There were several _____ of theft in the office building last weekend. The owner wants to _____ their security policies. They may need a new system.
2. In Canada, some information is considered private. For example, it is _____ to ask someone about their marriage, family, or religion in a job interview.
3. When the minister had to cancel the school program, she _____ a lot of criticism. Many people thought the program could have been saved.
4. I don't like driving with people who honk their horns a lot. Even if the horn is not _____ me, I still feel _____. I worry that the person is angry and could act violently.
5. Last year, the company _____ all the comments about them on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. They wanted to see what customers were saying about them.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

Alberta Justice – the branch of government that controls law

social media – electronic communication in online communities, such as Twitter or Facebook

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: [https://quizlet.com/ 34zocd](https://quizlet.com/34zocd)

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Rachel Notley is the most threatened premier in Canadian history.
2. ____ This information came from Alberta Justice.
3. ____ There were 412 incidents of inappropriate contact and communication aimed at Notley.
4. ____ This was between January 26th of 2015 and December 19th of 2016.
5. ____ The comments were tracked on the Alberta Justice website.
6. ____ 36 were sent to police for review and possible investigation.
7. ____ Alberta premiers also face threats in other places, not just social media.
8. ____ Between 2003 and 2015, 55 non-social media threats were made to premiers.
9. ____ 13 of those threats were against Notley.

Food for thought

Why do you think there are so many threats against Notley?

Do you think that people say things on social media that they don't mean? Why?

What is an appropriate punishment for people who make threats? What should the police do?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with the CBC for February 21 st with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Douglas Garland has been found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Alvin and Kathy Liknes and their five-year-old grandson Nathan O'Brien. The jury delivered its verdict on Thursday after deliberating for 8 and half hours. The three people went missing in 2014. Their bodies have never been found. The Crown's theory was that they were taken from their home alive after a violent struggle, and killed on a farm where Garland lived with his parents. The Crown believes Garland burned the bodies. During the trial, the jury heard DNA from Alvin, Kathy and Nathan was found on the farm near Airdrie, north of Calgary. Police also testified they found computer hard drives hidden on the property. Those hard drives contained research about killing, torture and weapons. The jury heard Garland was angry with Alvin Liknes over a business relationship that had gone bad years earlier. Garland did not speak in his own defense and his lawyers did not call any witnesses.	0:14
Story 2	Staff and students at Mount Royal University are mourning the death of two flight instructors. They were killed when the plane they were in crashed about 100km northwest of Calgary last week. Jeffrey Bird and Reynold Johnson were both experienced pilots. Bird was formerly a pilot instructor with the Royal Canadian Air Force, while Johnson had a 35-year career as a pilot with Air Canada and Jazz. The Transportation Safety Board is now investigating the crash. It could be up to a year before it releases its report on the cause of the crash.	1:54
Story 3	Rachel Notley is the most threatened premier in Alberta history. New numbers from Alberta Justice show there were 412 incidents of what's been called "inappropriate contact and communication" aimed at Notley between January 26th 2016, and December 19th of the same year. The comments were tracked on social media. 26 were sent to police for review and possible investigation. Alberta premiers also faced threats outside of the social media world. 55 non-social media threats were made between 2003 and 2015. 19 of those were against Rachel Notley.	2:54

Answer keys

News story 1

Douglas Garland found guilty of three murders (0:14)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>6</u>	guilty (adj.)	1. idea, understanding
<u>8</u>	deliberating (v.)	2. declared, said
<u>1</u>	theory (n.)	3. information, study
<u>9</u>	violent (adj.)	4. fight, battle
<u>4</u>	struggle (n.)	5. watchers, seers
<u>2</u>	testified (v.)	6. responsible, wrong
<u>3</u>	research (n.)	7. pain, hurt
<u>7</u>	torture (n.)	8. discussing, considering
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Listening

Person/Group		Information
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Nathan O'Brien	•	found guilty of three counts of murder
the jury	•	did not call any witnesses in the trial
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Garland's parents	•	delivered its verdict on Thursday
police	•	lived with their son on a farm near Airdrie
Garland's lawyers	•	found hard drives hidden on Garland's property

News story 2

Two flight instructors dead in plane crash (1:54)

Vocabulary

- Hospitals have a wide range of **staff**, from doctors and nurses to receptionists and cleaners.
 - sick people
 - workers
- The shooting at the Quebec mosque was a tragedy. Canada is **mourning** the victims.
 - feeling strong pain from an injury
 - feeling strong sadness when someone dies
- She is a very **experienced** detective. She has worked with the Calgary police for 16 years.
 - having skill or knowledge from doing something before
 - having success from doing something with help
- Holly was **formerly** a journalist. Now, she teaches writing at a college.
 - previously
 - physically
- Luke had a great **career** in government. He worked for several departments for 40 years.
 - a job done for a short time
 - a job done for a long time
- Nobody knows how the fire started. The police are **investigating** it now.
 - searching for the truth
 - making sure people are safe
- The Ministry of Health **releases** its new nutrition guide next month. It will be on their website.
 - publishes or makes public
 - changes or fixes
- In many countries, including Canada, heart disease is a major **cause** of death.
 - something that fixes a problem
 - something that has an effect

Listening

- Which university is mourning?
Mount Royal University
- What are staff and students mourning?
The death of two flight instructors
- Where was the plane crash?
100km northwest of Calgary
- When was the plane crash?
Last week
- Jeffrey Bird was a pilot with which Royal Canadian organization?
The (Royal Canadian) Air Force
- How long was Reynold Johnson's pilot career?
35 years

7. Which airlines did Johnson work for?
Air Canada and Jazz
8. Which board is investigating the crash?
The Transportation Safety Board
9. How long might it be before they release a report?
up to a year

News story 3 Notley the most threatened premier in Alberta history (2:54)

Vocabulary

1. There were several incidents of theft in the office building last weekend. The owner wants to review their security policies. They may need a new system.
2. In Canada, some information is considered private. For example, it is inappropriate to ask someone about their marriage, family, or religion in a job interview.
3. When the minister had to cancel the school program, she faced a lot of criticism. Many people thought the program could have been saved.
4. I don't like driving with people who honk their horns a lot. Even if the horn is not aimed at me, I still feel threatened. I worry that the person is angry and could act violently.
5. Last year, the company tracked all the comments about them on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. They wanted to see what customers were saying about them.

Listening

1. F Rachel Notley is the most threatened premier in Canadian history.
2. T This information came from Alberta Justice.
3. T There were 412 incidents of inappropriate contact and communication aimed at Notley.
4. F This was between January 26th of 2015 and December 19th of 2016.
5. F The comments were tracked on the Alberta Justice website.
6. F 36 were sent to police for review and possible investigation.
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8. T Between 2003 and 2015, 55 non-social media threats were made to premiers.
9. F 13 of those threats were against Notley.